

Whig party is now willing to enter into a coalition or bargain with the Democratic party to support Governor Dinwiddie for a reelection. Such Whigs are now sounding his praise, and denouncing their candidate, Mr. Sawyer, and agree that he stands in no better attitude than Mr. Atwood.

## ILLINOIS

private hands have occupied most of the time. Mr. Benton and Mr. Berrien have been extensively heard from on these questions. I always listen with interest to Colonel Benton, not for the reason that I lately heard a lady give, that "he is so delightfully personal in his remarks"—for this, though true of him, and sometimes on a dull day productive of a pleasant, little excitement, is by no means a peculiarity, or a distinction in the Senate. But for his strong, bold, straightforward way of speaking, the sleight-handing style of his argument, the merciless cut and thrust of his invective, one can but pay him a sort of fearful homage. His wit is not, the ladies

phorescent light which plays incessantly along the course of elegant and graceful oratory; it is rather like the quick, sharp light which the hoof of a fierce and powerful horse strike from a flinty path at night.

On Friday morning, there was a brief, but very interesting, discussion on the *Amistad* claim, in which Chase, Clay, and Hale, took part. Mr Chase spoke as usual, with much clearness and force. He is one of the most manly and truly dignified members of the Senate. He proclaims his peculiar principles, unpopular as they are with a majority of that body, equally without fear and without bravado. He has independence without obstinacy, sincerity without brusqueness, and morality without cant. In the beginning of the debate, Mr Clay made an attack upon Mr. Hale, giving an *ex vivo* point to his remarks.

pointing his long, rebuking finger at that good-humored Senator. Mr. Hale could not have been advised of this fierce onslaught; yet he defended himself, or rather returned the sudden blow, with a quickness, a boldness, and a severity absolutely startling. He turned the tables at once—"I carried the war into Africa"—not by attacking the Colonization scheme, but by charging on the Compromise. Mr. Hale may not always come forth fully prepared to meet his adversaries with some ponderous argument, or ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> waiting sarcasm, long sharpened and polished for the occasion, but he is always ready to seize at once on whatever weapons lie nearest his strong hand. There is a story of a Sarscen chief, who, being suddenly called to battle, while the smith was yet welding his cimeter, caught it from the anvil, and

This interesting discussion was brought to an untimely end by the President's calling the New

Hampshire Senator to order, though it was only replying to the personal remarks which his distinguished opponent pursued sans rebuke and sans interruption. But Free-Soilers are evidently not among the men whom "the King delighteth to honor."

In the House, the Mint bill has been under discussion. Mr. Chandler of Philadelphia, a speaker who always commands a respectful and pained attention, has spoken very forcibly against the establishment of a mint in New York. The New York delegation are, as might be supposed, earnestly in favor of it—so we had quite a spicy

On Wednesday, Mr. Julian of Indiana made a noble speech on the Homestead bill. This was a strong, fearless, and eloquent expression of a liberty-loving and philanthropic spirit. It is lying before me now, and I have just been reading some of its finest passages: and, brief and unstudied as

it is, it does not seem to me a speech for one day or for one Congressional session. It seems needed with the strength of a great purpose, veined with a vital truth, a moral life-blood beating through it warm and generous. It is something that must live and work yet many days.

Social life for the past week has rolled on in the usual routine—receptions, levees, parties—parties, levees, receptions. There are many also

who are utterly involved in this fashionable whirlpool—swept away by this hurricane-life. Poor creatures! Yet there is nothing like getting used to such things. I shouldn't wonder if some rather liked it than otherwise—if, like Holmes' Treadmill hero, they should pronounce it "pretty sport," and, even after their release, feel disposed to return, and "have a round or two, for fun."

Mr. Dempster has been giving his "Ballads and Entertainments" here to admiring audiences

No one sings more directly to the heart, or carries more readily sound its depths of emotion, than this delightful vocalist. His clear, round notes drop into it, one by one, like shining pebbles, till it overflows in tears, or sparkles up and dances in mirth. His humor and pathos are alike irresistible—he gives strong voice to plain, manly thoughts and sweet voice to simple, humble loves—he makes the spirit of home life vocal—he is truly a singer for the people, one they do well to honor; for he

We have also enjoyed a very great treat in attending Mr. Vandenhoff's "Evenings with Sheridan." We went to these with high expectations, which were more than satisfied. Mr. Vandenhoff is an admirable reader, as well as an actor of fine genius, and a gentleman of most elegant appearance. The readings were given, as they proceeded.

by a sketch of the life, and criticisms on the genius of Sheridan—and this was by no means the least interesting part of the entertainment. These introductions were most happily conceived and brilliantly written. It is surely high praise to say, what all who heard them must acknowledge, that these clever, witty, dashing, yet most appreciating remarks, were a fitting and a pleasing prelude to the incomparable comedies of Sheridan.

Mr. Vandenhoff's personations are very fine—he fits himself body and soul into the characters he represents. I have heard voices of greater

compass and variety of tone than his, but I think I never saw a face of such mobility—so instantly and obediently obedient to every change of thought or feeling. When all is so good, it was difficult to designate a best; but I was especially pleased with his Sir Anthony Absolute, Mrs. Malaprop, Bob Acres, Joseph Surface, Sir Peter Teazle, and Sir Prefrail Plegiary. His male characters are better than his female, though Mrs. Candor is done to life, and Lady Treazle is by him better given us

than by my to the little room. In the whole of fifteen years, however, he was indeed admirable in the whole of his career, incomparably rididulous ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> his past before he came to the time when he was more than ever irretrievable in the eyes of his countrymen and overbearing surpluses.

As, that second scene, how significant and suggestive it seemed to me, seeing it where I then saw it. Think I to myself, there is many a poor fellow Joseph Surface, who, by the utterance of "little Joseph Surface," passes for a prodigy of patriotism.

Uncle Samuel, and who flatters and enjoys him until, like poor Sir Peter, he unconsciously becomes a delighted party to his own dishonor. I thought, also, that there was a principle which, in some respects, might stand for the Charles Surface of this political comedy—one generally esteemed a *sud scamp*—suspected and avoided by the severely moral and the profoundly respectable,